S. Milledgeville Jany 6th 1852

My dear Sons -

In the hurry of having John's trunk packed I overlooked the fact that I had provided no hair brushes &c for you - I therefore inclose in this letter five dollars which you must hand to Mr Brantley and request him from me to be so kind as to purchase for each of you, a hair brush, coarse comb - fine comb and tooth brush -

I write here urge upon you the necessity of using your tooth brush every morning - and hope you both will attend to this duty when you know it is the request of your father and mother.

We think of you much, and talk of you frequently and I can safely say that you have been out of mind, but few moments since I parted with John A. Last night was very windy, dreary and comfortless - and as we sat

around a cheerful fire in the dining room - I thought of my little boys - as strangers under a strange roof - spending their first evening with their new teachers - Your Papa observed that he would like to look in upon you - but he doubled not that you were both diverted by the novelty of your situation - from thinking much of your absence from home -

As he knows better than I do how boys feel from home - I will trust him; and believe that your first evening was spent as contentedly and happily as we could wish.

Cannot each of you give me a description of that first evening - describing your feelings, and employment on the occasion -

Did Lamar think most of Uncle John or most of Papa and Mama? Did John A's thoughts revert to Ann Eliza Erwin - or did they turn tenderly to little sisters Mary Ann and Laura? - Write me all about it -

I send our a letter which your Papa received from Mr. Carothers - your teacher in Washington City - It contains a kind allusion to you both which we wish you to read - After you have

been to Mr Meade a month or so. I wish you to write a joint letter to Mr Carothers to show him the progress you have made in learning since you left him.

I wish you to take turns and write me a weekly letter. In February I hope to be able to visit Macon and bring Howell and your little sisters to see you.

Mary Ann continues well except the affection of her throat. She is very lively and enjoyed greatly your Uncle John Lamar's present of candy. It came on the 5th your Grand Papa's 69th birthday and your sister wi quite pleased that she could hold the name of candy and hand it to her grand Papa and the other members of the family.

Would you like to know what I gave your Grand Papa on his birth-day? You remember Lamar used to be curious whenever he saw a pudding put upon the table to know "whose ourf day is it". Well Grand papa had a "green goose" and mince pies. Your sister Laura is still a good baby and grows daily. She and I have descended to the dining-room where we remain

all day - Laura lies in the large yellow cradle that looks as if it was built for one of Gullivers Brobdignagg babies - Hercule is very lively. Your Papa and all the family unite with me in much love to you - hoping that you will be very good boys and give your teacher no trouble

Your affectionate mother
Mary Ann Cobb -

Masters.
John R. & Lamar Cobb -
Care of Mr Meade
Macon -